

The Library Assistant :

The Official Organ of the Library Assistants' Association.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The **INAUGURAL MEETING** of the Fourteenth Session will be held (by kind permission of J. Y. W. MacAlister, Esq., F.S.A.), at the Large Meeting Room of the Royal Society of Medicine, 20, Hanover Square, W., on **Wednesday, October the Fourteenth, at 8 p.m.**

Ernest A. Baker, Esq., M.A., D.Litt., *Chief Librarian, Woolwich, in the Chair.*

Inaugural Address, by **The Honourable WILLIAM PEMBER REEVES,** *Director, London School of Economics; Late High Commissioner for New Zealand.*

Members are urged to attend this important meeting, and the Council will welcome the presence of chief librarians and library workers who are not members of the Association.

NOTE.—The Sessional Programme, which is nearly completed, will be published in the November issue of the journal. It will be as varied and as interesting as any previous programme.

ANNUAL DINNER.

Provided that a sufficient number of members intimate their intention to be present, the Annual Dinner will be held in London on Wednesday, 11th November. The price of tickets will probably be 3s. 6d. as heretofore, and morning dress will be worn. It is hoped that members will not allow this exceedingly pleasant function to be abandoned through lack of support. Those who are able to be present are asked to send their names, stating whether or not they will be accompanied by ladies or other friends, to Mr. W. Geo. Chambers, Public Library, Plumstead, not later than October 10th.

FUGITIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY IN RELATION TO BOOK SELECTION.*

By JAMES D. YOUNG, *Greenwich Public Libraries.*

Of recent years those of us who have followed the literature of librarianship have heard a good deal about the "work-shop" library. The contents of such a library would consist of the most useful books on the most sought-after subjects. In such a library it would be possible to study the works of the great writers, foreign as well as English, and the history of the development of our philosophical, religious, economic, and scientific ideas. We should also be able to study history, geography, and the lives of all the great men of the world in this ideal library. I think we will all agree that the work-shop ideal library is quite a satisfactory ideal; but—and there is always a but—how is it to be realized?

Now I do not suppose for a moment that I can in any way suggest a final settlement of the difficulty, but I think I shall be doing useful work if I merely indicate certain steps which may be taken towards getting a little nearer to the ideal than we are at present. The subject which I propose to discuss is really book-selection. From the librarian's point of view I regard book-selection as the most important department of practical bibliography. The average library can only have a small, indeed in most cases only an infinitesimal part of the world's output of printed matter. Consequently the selection should be made with great care.

It was in Professor Huxley's works that I first met with the remark upon education that a man should know something about everything, and everything about something. This test might be applied *in toto* to a library stock. It should contain (1) everything on something, and (2) something—the best obtainable—on everything. The first difficulty the book selector will find is the lack of small, select bibliographies. Of what use is the bibliography, which occupies 60 large octavo pages and contains about 1760 entries, in volume 8 of the "Cambridge Modern History" to the librarian who probably can only afford to buy about 20 books on the French Revolution? (I am not complaining of the bibliographies in the "Cambridge Modern History." They are one of the most valuable features of the work, but they are of little assistance to the person who must make a very small selection). Large bibliographies are compiled on all sorts of plans, rational and otherwise, but their chief defect is the lack of critical and evaluative notes. If there

*Read at a meeting of the Library Assistants' Association, 18th April, 1908.

is one man who is in need of evaluations more than another it is the librarian, for it is he who selects the books. Where then is he (or it may be she) to look for guidance in this most important matter? As few of us will ever have to select all the works in a library, we will assume that we are engaged in the work of book-buying for a library which has already a small stock, say about 10,000 volumes. Throughout any general collection of books, however small, will be found, if only diligent search be made, an amount of bibliographical information which, when catalogued and indexed thoroughly, will surprise one as to its quantity, and still more so as to its quality. I am confident that this "fugitive bibliography" (the term is used for lack of a better), is, to the harassed librarian, who simply *must* curtail his inclination to purchase on a large scale, the most valuable in existence. How is he to start looking for it?

The best commencement is probably made by examining the prefaces and introductions to books. The average author is, as a rule, content in his preface to limit his remarks to the books which he has found most useful, and he frequently takes it upon himself to advise the *young* student (this is merely the author's modesty) as to the best books to use if the said young student wishes further to pursue his studies in the same subject. The author freely annotates all recommended books, and while it must be admitted that annotation is an art which does not admit of perfectibility, yet such annotations are probably the best obtainable. As an example of the bibliographical preface, take Bertha M. Gardiner's "French Revolution." In it the works of fifteen authors are mentioned as being specially useful. Truly a more convenient list to examine than the list of 1760 items mentioned above. This does not represent much extra work to the librarian, for I believe that most prefaces are glanced through when the books are catalogued; therefore, all that it is necessary to do is to make a note on a catalogue slip and put it aside till wanted. Prefaces which contain no bibliographical information may be ignored for the present.

Frequently bibliographical information of the most valuable kind is to be found in the middle of the text of a book. I will quote two examples. On page 360 of volume 3 of Morley's "Critical Miscellanies" there will be found in a foot-note a list of eleven books recommended for the study of Positivism. Such a slight list cannot be regarded as a bibliography of Positivism; but it is just that selection within a selection that librarians talk such a lot about but so seldom realize. Again, in Meiklejohn's "English Language," pages 445-458, there is a "table of English literature," consisting of a record of the

works of only eighty-four authors. This is not a very formidable list, yet I call your attention to it because I am confident that in seven public libraries out of ten the works of these authors will not be found adequately represented.

The average bibliography which is added to a book on some specific subject is, I believe, extremely imperfect. This, however, does not detract from its utility. The fact that the compiler of the bibliography has in all probability read—nay, even studied—the works mentioned therein, makes the annotations which are generally added most valuable. A good example of such a bibliography—it is described as “a list of works particularly to be recommended”—will be found at the end of Moll’s “Hypnotism.”

Now, if all the bibliographical information scattered throughout our collection of books were collected and arranged, the result would be the compilation of a very fair bibliography of bibliographies. I only say a very fair bibliography because in certain sections of literature, notably science, to follow this method would be merely to collect information on obsolete, and consequently for the most part useless, books. However, in the building up of a library stock I think it is a fact not yet properly recognised that, if the collection of books is to be representative of the thought and action of the world, the gradual acquisition of the works of such writers as Leibniz and Turgot is just as necessary as the sudden and spasmodic acquisition of the latest work on radiography, fancy theology, or secular eschatology. On consulting the bibliography of bibliographies after it was compiled, I am sure that we should find that we had bibliographies on many subjects which are almost unrepresented in the average British public library.

Concerning the subjects which could not be studied in the average British public library, a three volume treatise might be written. But let us confine our attention to one or two of them only, taking as the first philosophy. Who would think of going to a public library if he wanted to study the development of German metaphysics from Kant to Hegel? Yet the bulk of the works covering that period have been translated and their authors—Kant, Schelling, Fichte, Hegel—are among the most discussed and most quoted philosophical authors. This is merely one example of what the student frequently cannot do in our public libraries. Whether we are often likely to find anyone who wants to do it is another matter.

Now let us consider a more interesting subject—history. The average public library will supply the usual classical histories readily enough, and books on English and, probably,

French history. But what about the history of the rest of Europe from about 500 A.D. onwards? Examine the usual collection of books on German history. The Holy Roman Empire is generally represented by one book, Austria by possibly two works, Prussia and the rest of the German States might never have existed so far as the library stock is concerned. In addition, there are one or two "histories of Germany," which must be cheerful reading when we reflect that the expression "History of Germany" is about as explicit as the expression "History of Europe." The histories of Italy, Spain, the Byzantine Empire, Hungary, Poland, Russia and Scandinavia are, if anything, worse represented than Germany. The introductions to the various historical works in almost any library will supply ample lists of reliable works—unfortunately not all written in English—a judicious selection of which would vastly enhance the value of the stock, filling up the vacant spaces, so that an incomplete and heterogeneous section of the library would be transformed into a homogeneous and adequate whole.

Collections of essays are interesting from the book-selector's point of view. If writers attain sufficient fame or notoriety to cause later writers to produce essays criticising, explaining, praising, or damning their works, surely such writers merit the distinction of finding a place on the shelves of our public libraries. Turning again to Morley's "Critical Miscellanies," volume 2, we find studies on the following authors: Vauvenargues, Turgot, Condorcet, and Joseph de Maistre. These are all writers of first class importance, but I have searched public library catalogues in vain for their works. The following is a list of French writers whose works are either very inadequately represented, or not represented at all in even our large public libraries: Rabelais, Pascal, Boileau, Bossuet, Fénelon, Voltaire, Diderot, Rousseau. I mention these authors because, on consulting the library catalogue, whole works and essays, all duly catalogued, will be found about them. But where are the works of the authors themselves? The above list might be largely extended, but, thanks chiefly to the energy of the late Mr. Henry G. Bohn, a teutonic apostle of culture to the barbarian English, the works of such writers as Montaigne, Montesquieu, and Molière manage to slip into our collections, although, I fear, more by accident than design.

Only one other class of works, biographies, will I mention. On nearly every celebrity there are written a host of studies of one sort or another. But in addition to such ephemeral stuff there are fortunately a certain number of works of a superior

kind—the standard biographies as they are termed. Now, it seems to me that the acquisition of these standard biographies should be seen to. To have some great man or woman represented by two hundred pages of mediocre journalism is painful. Probably there is no more neglected section in our public library collections than the biographies of the great musicians. The following are a number of standard works which, I fear, are but too conspicuous by their absence: Thayer's Beethoven, Spitta's Bach, Niecks' Chopin, Pohl's or Mandyczewski's Haydn, Kreissle's Schubert, Wasielewski's Schumann. This list could be indefinitely extended.

A consideration of the above paragraphs will show what lacunæ may be found in our collections of books if they be only submitted to the most cursory examination. Few public libraries would be justified in suddenly expending large sums of money in finding out all the great English and foreign authors whose works they have not got and purchasing them. But the gradual acquisition of these works should be contemplated, even if it cannot be realised. It may be contended that there is no demand for such works as I have mentioned, but we must remember that a supply frequently creates a demand.

I do not intend on this occasion to speak of scientific or technical literature. To keep these sections up-to-date the "fugitive bibliography" we have been considering is dangerous stuff to handle. Scientific writings which may be safely recommended to-day may have to be scrapped a year hence. This is a problem which must be left to some bold library assistant yet to be discovered.

THE REGISTRATION OF LIBRARIANS.

At the morning session of the Library Association Conference at Brighton on Wednesday, the 26th August, a discussion, to which members of the Library Assistants' Association had been invited, took place on the Report of the Special Committee on Registration. It will be remembered that at a joint meeting of the L.A. and the L.A.A., held on the 22nd January, a resolution was adopted requesting the Library Association to consider and publish a report on the whole question of registration. The Special Committee's recommendations are printed below. The Council of the Library Assistants' Association held a special meeting on the 19th August to consider this Report, and by ten votes to one adopted a resolution that "No scheme of registration which involves membership of an Association is desirable."

Library Association Committee's Report.

1.—This Committee are of opinion that the form of Registration best suited to the needs of the library profession would be a reclassification of the members of the Library Association on lines which would distinguish the professional from the non-professional members.

2.—The Committee have considered the classification of members obtaining in several professional bodies which admit non-professional persons as members, such as the Surveyors' Institution, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Electrical Engineers, etc., and suggest the following scheme for consideration by the Council:—

- (a) The members of the Association shall consist of Honorary Fellows, Fellows, Associates, Members, and Student Members.
- (b) Honorary Fellows shall be persons who have rendered distinguished service in promoting the objects of the Association, or whose election in the opinion of the Council will be advantageous to its interests or objects.
- (c) Candidates for election as Fellows shall be (1) salaried librarians, responsible for the administration of a library or library system, holding office on (date to be inserted); and (2) holders of the Diploma of the Library Association.
- (d) Candidates for election as Associates shall be (1) salaried librarians, not holding chief positions, twenty-five years of age or over, with not less than six years' approved experience, holding office on (date to be inserted); and (2) librarians holding four certificates of the Library Association, and with five years' approved experience.
- (e) Candidates for election as Members shall be (1) persons connected with the administration of libraries, or interested in the objects of the Association, not being librarians; (2) librarians not qualified as Fellows or Associates; and (3) institutions.
- (f) Candidates for election as Student Members shall be any persons under twenty-five years of age, engaged in library work, or studying for the profession, not qualified as Fellows or Associates.
- (g) Fellows and Associates shall have the right of using the initials F.L.A. and A.L.A. respectively after their names so long as they remain subscribing members of the Association.
- (h) The rights and privileges of all classes of members, excluding student members, shall be equal.
- (i) Fellows shall pay an admission fee of Two Guineas, and Associates of One Guinea.
- (j) Fellows, Associates, and Members shall pay an annual subscription of One Guinea. Student Members shall pay an annual subscription of Ten Shillings and Sixpence.

3.—We have submitted the above scheme to the Honorary Solicitor, who inclines to the opinion that its adoption would not necessarily involve any change in the Charter, but only in the Bye-Laws.

About a dozen members of the L.A.A. journeyed to Brighton in order to attend the meeting.

Discussion.

Mr. L. Stanley Jast (Hon. Sec., L.A.), in opening the discussion on the report, said nothing of such vital moment to the profession had been before the Library Association for a long time. He pointed out that the detailed scheme was a scheme suggested for consideration only; neither the Registration Committee nor the Council stood in any way committed to the details. As to the question of the timeliness of registration, he said so far as he was concerned, this was decided in the affirmative when he found a practically unanimous opinion on the part of those who would be more immediately affected by registration, viz., library assistants, that the time for registration had come. Librarians were not so much concerned with registration; they were concerned with the form of register. He asked the adherence of the Association to the report submitted, as he believed that registration on the lines laid down would bind the members more intimately together, and the work of the Association would be benefited in almost every direction. His case for registration was that (1) it would give to the coming generation of librarians a status and a protection to which they had a right to look forward, and (2) even more important, it would materially benefit the Association, to the furtherance of whose objects they stood pledged.

Mr. W. Benson Thorne (President, L.A.A.), followed and explained that he spoke not as President of the L.A.A., but as a private member of the Association; the L.A.A. as an Association had not considered the suggested scheme. He deplored the fact that some of the best posts in the profession had been filled by untrained persons and he was strongly of opinion that a register of all qualified librarians was necessary, but he regretted that he found himself in almost complete opposition to nearly every recommendation contained in the report. He submitted that registration had nothing whatever to do with membership of the L.A. He urged the appointment by the L.A. of a Registration Board which would carry out all business connected with the register.

Mr. John Ballinger (Cardiff) moved, and Councillor T. C. Abbott (Manchester) seconded, the following resolution: "That this meeting is of opinion that a scheme of registration is desirable; that any such scheme should take the form of a classification of members of the Library Association, which shall distinguish between professional and non-professional members; and that the Council be instructed to prepare a scheme in accordance with the report now submitted.

Mr. H. V. Hopwood (Patent Office) urged that registration should not be adopted by the L.A. as a means of recruiting

members ; it would be far better to recognise all qualified librarians. The L.A. would gain just as much kudos by holding the register as it would by making membership a condition of registration. He was in entire agreement with Mr. Thorne's views, and therefore moved as an amendment that "No form of registration of librarians is desirable that involves compulsory membership of any association."

The President ruled that the amendment was a direct negative and therefore could not be accepted.

Mr. W. R. B. Prideaux (Librarian, Reform Club, and a holder of the Diploma of the L.A.), was disappointed with the report and held the view enunciated in the amendment which Mr. Hopwood had desired to move. It was not right that registration should be used as a lever to increase the membership of the L.A.; in this case it would fail in its purpose and would bring discredit on the Association. The functions of education and registration should go together and if the Association were going to keep the register it must provide the necessary training.

The discussion was continued by Messrs. H. D. Roberts (Brighton), R. K. Dent (Aston Manor), W. C. B. Sayers (Croydon), A. O. Jennings (Brighton), and H. R. Tedder (The Athenæum, London), all of whom spoke in favour of the resolution; by Mr. P. Cowell (Liverpool), who made a plea for delay in order that he could discuss the whole matter with his staff; and by Mr. W. G. Chambers (Plumstead), who spoke against, as he objected to any compulsion to join the Library Association. The discussion ended in the adoption of the resolution by 94 to 14 votes.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

The Yorkshire Branch visited Keighley on Wednesday, September 9th, and held a most successful meeting there.

The members were met at the Railway Station by Mr. H. C. Longsdon (Chairman of the Library Committee) and Mr. R. S. Crossley (Librarian), and proceeded to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Longsdon who kindly entertained them to tea, the members expressing their appreciation of this kindly act in a hearty vote of thanks.

A meeting was then held at which Mr. Crossley presided. After preliminary business Mr. J. Rhodes read a paper on "The attitude of the Librarian to Esperanto, the International Auxiliary Language."

Mr. Rhodes referred to the numerous attempts which had been made since the time of Bacon to discover or provide an

international language which should be free from the irregularities of national tongues, and at the same time be capable of unlimited expansion, so as to serve for commerce, for travel, and even for literature. Esperanto had provided the desideratum, and this fact, coupled with the large amount of literature already produced in Esperanto, and the striking success of the four congresses, entitled the language to notice at the hands of public librarians. On the literary side of the question the speaker referred to the production on August 19th, in the Opera House at Dresden—associated with the debut of Wagner's creations—of Schiller's "*Iphigenia in Tauris*" by eminent German actors. This reproduction had given perhaps the most striking proof hitherto offered of the fitness of Dr. Zamenhof's language for the highest literary expression. There was, however, another aspect of this literary appeal for Esperanto to the sympathy of the public librarian. There was a constantly increasing tendency to provide works on the shelves of our libraries in the languages of neighbouring nations. But such provision must necessarily remain very limited in character, and the general reader's knowledge of foreign literature must come through translations. Eminent judges held the opinion that translations in Esperanto frequently conveyed more of the spirit of the original than was to be met with in any national translation. Anyhow, Esperanto was placing within reach of the student very interesting and valuable anthologies of national literature, especially that of the minor nations.

Considerable interest in the subject was displayed in the discussion which followed, many speakers asking for information as to pronunciation, how the difficulty of idiom was overcome, and as to the length of time required to obtain a working acquaintance with the language. Mr. Rhodes replied to the points raised and was warmly thanked for his paper.

Miss Chaloner (Leeds) then contributed a paper on "Reference Library Counter Work." After speaking of the duties and qualifications of a reference library assistant, Miss Chaloner referred to research work as the most important work in a reference department: so many questions were asked during a day, so many of them on out-of-the-way subjects, that it was necessary for an assistant to know, or to have some idea of where to look for the information required. The librarian should cultivate a habit of curiosity; he should know more than the outsides of the books in his charge. It was not sufficient to refer a reader to the catalogue. The best catalogue was a poor substitute for a good assistant. Another necessary quality was a good memory. The speaker, in conclusion, emphasised

the absolute necessity of a proper system of classification if the reference library was to be of the greatest possible use.

This paper was also discussed, and Miss Chaloner was accorded a vote of thanks.

The members then adjourned to the Public Library where they found that Mr. and Mrs. Crossley had thoughtfully provided refreshments. An enjoyable time was spent here, and before dispersing votes of thanks were accorded the Keighley Public Library Committee and Mr. and Mrs. Crossley.

Notice to Yorkshire Members.

A course of Lectures on "Landmarks in the History of English Literature" will be delivered by Prof. Vaughan at Leeds University on Friday evenings at 7.30 o'clock, commencing 9th October. Fee for the course, 5s.

NORTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

An ordinary quarterly meeting of the North-Eastern Branch of the Library Assistants' Association was held at Tyne-mouth Public Library (by kind permission of Mr. A. Hair, Chief Librarian), on Wednesday, September 16th, 1908. There was a good attendance of between thirty and forty members. Mr. D. W. Herdman, Chairman of the Branch, presided over an interesting meeting.

A paper on "The Education of the Library Assistant" was read by Mr. W. Wilson, Sub-librarian, Gateshead, who said that he thought the question of professional education stood in the forefront of debateable matters in the library world at the present day, and he believed that fact to be the happiest of auguries alike for the public and the members of the profession. In reviewing the course of training outlined by the Library Association and its examination scheme, he thought greater emphasis should be placed on the non-elementary nature of the latter. The examinations were not framed for junior or senior-junior assistants alone, although the names on the pass lists supported such an idea. Whatever faults the curricula might have no one could say that the examinations were too elementary. The L.A. in the scheme of registration which was proposed would grant to holders of four of the provisional certificates, as well as to those with long service and approved experience, the Associateship of the Association. Let none think, however, that the latter qualification would be of much value, for it was certain that those holding certificates would describe themselves as "Associate by Examination." The examinations were not exclusively technical; they had their

literary side, and a preliminary test of general knowledge was unnecessary. Dr. Baker's scheme providing for three examinations of progressive difficulty was a desirable reform, but unlikely to succeed under present conditions of small salaries and long hours. Meanwhile the L.A. should conduct its own examinations in Latin and one modern language, certificates in which were necessary before the Diploma could be gained. The system of correspondence classes should be extended to include Literary History, Bibliography, and Classification, until some satisfactory method of oral tuition could become practicable. He hoped that the North-East Branch would organise something in the way of reading circles to enable the members to help one another in studying for the examinations.

The Chairman said the paper was of great interest to all present. There could be no doubt that the position of libraries was in the hands of the younger men. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. T. E. Turnbull) noticed that whenever the question of professional education was mentioned there were always some discontents, especially among the older librarians, many of whom were apparently too conservative to favour the better education of assistants. Some librarians, on the other hand, encouraged their juniors in every possible way. Respecting correspondence classes, Literary History was scarcely teachable. Mr. I. Briggs (Newcastle) favoured examinations in more humanistic subjects before assistants entered the library. He deprecated mechanical efficiency. The Vice-Chairman (Mr. W. H. Gibson) spoke of the increasing calls on an assistant's time as he grew older, and the lack of opportunities for systematic study. Whilst agreeing that the student of literature must himself read extensively, guidance was undoubtedly helpful. Miss Forman advocated the reading of literature for the pleasure to be derived from it, and thought the incentive of examination should be unnecessary. Mr. E. Pearson testified to the value of the examinations in practical work.

Mr. J. W. Lambert (Sunderland) then read a paper entitled " 'Extension work'—is it overdone?" He answered the question in the affirmative. His definition of extension work was "any work or scheme, other than the ordinary routine work, which is undertaken by the staff of a library with a view to extending and popularising the institution. Such work should only be undertaken when everything has been done to facilitate the service in a library, and when all the details and principles of the library's administration were worked on approved and efficient lines. Very few libraries were sufficiently well organised to allow of beneficial extension work. In spite

of this librarians all over the country were attempting to reap the benefits of extension schemes. Unclassified libraries, for instance, were to be condemned for attempting book exhibitions, and so on, the libraries themselves being in a chaotic state. It was ridiculous to advertise an inefficient institution.

The Chairman felt strongly with Mr. Lambert that extension work could only be satisfactory when the library was efficient. Mr. J. Walton (Newcastle) congratulated the reader of the paper both on its form and on its matter. He agreed with its conclusions. Mr. H. Griffiths (Sunderland) believed in extension work, and instanced particularly the good results accruing from lists of books compiled to illustrate lectures delivered in the town. Mr. H. Howe (Tynemouth) said that in his library everything possible was done to extend the work. The Hon. Secretary thought that if libraries were to be efficient before adopting extension work he knew of some that would be some time in doing so—whilst the grass grew the horse would starve. Mr. Briggs (Newcastle) disagreed with extension work, but his idea as to what was and what was not extension work did not coincide with that of the reader of the paper.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Correspondence Classes.

A series of Correspondence Classes will commence about the middle of October in the following sections of the Examination Syllabus:—

SECTION IV., CATALOGUING. By Mr. W. R. B. Prideaux, B.A., Librarian of the Reform Club, Pall Mall, S.W.

SECTION V., LIBRARY HISTORY. By Mr. E. A. Savage, Librarian of the Wallasey Public Libraries, Earlstown Library, Liscard, Cheshire.

SECTION VI., LIBRARY ROUTINE. By Mr. W. S. C. Rae, Librarian of the Fulham Public Libraries, Town Hall, Fulham, S.W.

Twelve lessons will be given in each subject, at fortnightly intervals. For full particulars apply to the Conductor of the course selected, or to the Honorary Secretary of the Education Committee, E. A. Baker, M.A., D.Litt., 24, Whitcomb Street, London, W.C. Fee for the course, 10s.

Lectures.

SECTION I., LITERARY HISTORY.

A course of lectures on Literary History, 1800-1850, will be given by Mr. A. C. L. Guthkelch, M.A., at King's College on Wednesday evenings, at 7 p.m., commencing 7th October. The special fee for Library Students (10s. 6d.) should be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Education Committee, who will forward admission ticket.

A course of Lectures on "The Progress of English Poetry from the Origins to the Age of Milton" will be given by Prof. Gollancz at King's College on Monday evenings, at 7 p.m., commencing 5th October.

A course of five lectures on Literary History, 1800-1850, for women, will be given by Miss Belgrave, M.A., at King's College (Women's Department) on alternate Wednesdays at 3 p.m., commencing 7th October. Men will also be admitted to these lectures if a sufficient number apply. Fee for the course, 10s. 6d.

SECTION II., BIBLIOGRAPHY.

A course of twenty lectures on Bibliography will be given by Mr. A. W. Pollard, M.A., assisted in the Lent Term by Mr. H. D. Roberts, at the London School of Economics, on Wednesdays, at 4.45 p.m., commencing 7th October. Application for admission to be made to the Director of the School, Clare Market, Kingsway, W.C. Fee for the course, £1 1s. Terminal fee, 12s. 6d.

SECTIONS V. AND VI., LIBRARY HISTORY AND LIBRARY ROUTINE.

A course of twenty lectures on Library Economy will be given by Mr. J. D. Brown at the London School of Economics on Wednesdays, at 8.15 p.m., commencing 7th October. Application for admission to be made to the Director of the School. Fee for the course, £1 1s. Terminal fee, 12s. 6d.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION EXAMINATION, 1908.

Pass List.

Section I.—LITERARY HISTORY (13 candidates).

Class 1. Nil.

Class 2.

*W. C. Berwick Sayers, Public Libraries, Croydon.

Class 3.

A. J. Hawkes, Public Libraries, Bournemouth.

*C. P. Jackson, Public Libraries, Woolwich.

S. Rigg, Public Library, Carlisle.

*F. Seward, Public Libraries, Bromley, Kent.

W. G. Wilding, Public Libraries, Finsbury.

Section V.—LIBRARY HISTORY, FOUNDATION, AND EQUIPMENT (46 candidates).

Class 1. Nil.

Class 2. Nil.

Class 3.

*G. R. Bolton, Public Libraries, St. Pancras.

*H. S. Brunt, The University, Sheffield.

*Miss R. L. Dumenil, Public Libraries, Hackney.

*W. Easlea, Bishopsgate Institute, London.

*Miss H. A. Funnell, Public Libraries, Islington.

*R. W. Higgs, Public Library, Southend.

D. A. Gillespie, Public Libraries, Westminster.

*S. Kirby, Public Libraries, Hornsey.

*W. Moore, Public Libraries, Belfast.

*W. H. Morgan, Public Libraries, Hammersmith.

Miss M. Muirhead, London School of Economics.

P. H. Phillips, Public Library, Chester.

C. H. Pritchard, Public Libraries, Bolton.

Miss G. O. Skuse, Public Libraries, Islington.

*Miss W. Stevenson, Public Libraries, Islington.

H. G. Swift, Public Libraries, Wallasey.

*G. F. Vale, Public Libraries, Stepney.

*R. W. Waugh, Public Libraries, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

*Member of the L.A.A.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of "The Library Assistant."

The Literary History Classes.

Sir,—Your columns this month include announcements of the various classes, lectures and correspondence classes which have been provided through the offices of the Library Association for the advantage of library assistants. It seems scarcely necessary at this late date to emphasise the importance of each and all of these privileges; but, if I may be permitted to do so, I should like to urge strongly upon my fellow-members the importance of supporting the classes in Literary History at King's College. It is unfortunately the fact that only too few of us recognise that such classes involve special and valuable concession on the part of the authorities. If this is once realised a great many more assistants will take advantage of the classes than heretofore. Only those of us who have closely watched the growth of education for librarians remember how keenly such classes were desired and with what insistence they were asked for. A poor response would be a scant courtesy to our friends Professor Gollancz and Dr. Baker, who have so strenuously endeavoured to provide suitable teaching in this necessary part of the librarian's equipment. Moreover, it is no compliment to our members that there have been so few entries for Section I. of the examination, and the still fewer number of passes is one of the most significant, and, as I think, tragic facts of the present state of library education. Of course, the examination is a difficult one when compared with other sections of the syllabus, but this is counter-balanced by the fact that it deals with far and away the most interesting subject on that syllabus. Last year the lectures were not so well attended as might have been hoped, but, as I pointed out at the time, that was probably owing to the fact that the lectures were held on a Thursday evening, when it was impossible for many to attend. This winter there will be courses on Monday and Wednesday—the course dealing with our special period being on Wednesday—and this should make it possible for the literary lectures to be what they should be, the most popular and best attended of all.

W. C. BERWICK SAYERS,

Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon.
22nd September, 1908.

Hon. Secretary, L.A.A.

The L.A. Diploma.

Sir,—I beg leave to correct an error in the Aug.-Sept. number of your journal. Under the heading 'Library Association Diploma Awarded' your contributor states that I received the diploma in 1906 when I was *librarian* of the Royal College of Physicians. I was at no time Librarian of that institution but only Assistant, and, in fact, the librarianship can only be held by a Fellow of the College.

I believe the same mistake was made a short while ago in the pages of the "Library Association Record," but it escaped my notice until it was too late to correct it; I am therefore glad to have this opportunity of stating the facts of the case.

W. R. B. PRIDEAUX.

Reform Club, Pall Mall, S.W.
9th September, 1908.

Sir,—Thank you for a sight of Mr. Prideaux's letter correcting my statement that he was Librarian of the Royal College of Physicians when he was awarded the Diploma of the Library Association. When drafting the note I was under the impression that Mr. Prideaux was an assistant at the time, but upon reference to the "Library Association Record," vol.

9, page 462, I found that he was described as Librarian, and I therefore accepted the statement as correct. Dr. Baker in a recent "Current View" in the "Library Association Record" also speaks of Mr. Dallimore as being the first assistant to receive the Diploma. Mr. Dallimore, however, is the first *public* library assistant to achieve this distinction.

G. A. S.

Public Libraries, St. Pancras, N.W.
18th September, 1908.

Mr. F. Dallimore (Wimbledon), and "Une voix du Nord" (Glasgow), write protesting against the decision of the Library Association to charge two guineas for the Diploma on and after 1st June, 1909.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

CLASSIFIED CATALOGUE OF THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH, 1902-1906.
2 vols. Pittsburgh. 1908.

These two volumes, forming the second series of the gigantic catalogue of the Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, are a worthy supplement to the three volumes in the first series, maintaining, as they do, the standard of excellence attained by them. They are compiled on similar lines to the preceding volumes—the salient features of which have been previously noticed in our pages—and include all books added to the Library from the 1st July, 1902, up to, but not including, January, 1907. The two series comprise in five volumes a complete catalogue of all the books in the Library from 1895 to 1906 inclusive. The format of the catalogue is admirable; the typography is pleasing; the paper is good, and the binding is strong, the volumes being hand-sewn and covered in English buckram. The whole work reflects great credit on the compilers and will prove a boon to all librarians who possess it.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION: CLASS LIST OF BEST BOOKS AND ANNUAL OF BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1907-1908. 1s. 6d. net.

This publication scarcely needs any words of ours to commend it to bookbuyers and librarians; its value is now recognised. The number of contributors to this, the third annual issue, has been increased, and further specialist assistance has been rendered. As usual many of the entries are annotated, and the classification adopted is again that of the Institut International de Bibliographie. Mr. Henry V. Hopwood, the Honorary General Editor, is to be congratulated on the success of his labours.

DONATION TO THE L.A.A. LIBRARY.

Library of Congress, A.L.A. Catalogue: 8,000 volumes for a popular library, with Notes, 1904. Presented by Messrs. Stevens and Brown, 4, Trafalgar Square, W.C.

APPOINTMENT.

Mr. S. G. CORLETT, Assistant, Gloucester, to be Librarian, Newton-in-Makerfield.

NEW MEMBERS.

Fellow: Mr. William A. Peplow, Public Library, Wood Green. (Mr. Peplow is the first Fellow to be elected under the new Constitution).

Member: Mr. W. H. Morgan, Shepherd's Bush Library, Hammer-smith.

Associates: Messrs. P. A. Garner, Bishopsgate Institute; B. Keighley, Woolwich; F. W. C. Pepper, Brighton; R. Pike, Great Yarmouth; E. Radford, Woolwich; H. Wilson, Erith.